

High School Environmental Center (HSEC)

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Key Words: high school, education, environment, science, homework

EPA's *High School Environmental Center* (HSEC) is a Web portal designed to provide high school students with access to a comprehensive library of high-quality, age-appropriate data and information about environmental and public health issues. The HSEC also links teens and their teachers to lesson plans, career information, volunteer opportunities, and more. Developed by an Agency-wide working group, the HSEC was designed from the start to assure target audience relevance and usability.

EPA disseminates information to a highly heterogeneous group of target audiences including scientists, researchers, children, legislators, industry representatives, the general public, environmental educators, and more. To ensure that the Agency selects and presents information in the most effective way possible for each audience, the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) seeks input from various communities at various stages of the website development lifecycle. For example, OEI helps gather and determine initial input about stakeholder information needs, conducts usability testing during website development to ensure that presentation matches stakeholder needs and preferences, and engages in community training and involvement to enhance community awareness and use of existing EPA Web holdings.